

FIRE'S RAVAGES.

Millions of Dollars Worth of Property Destroyed.

The Reported Fugitive From Dallas Turns Up at Hot Springs, Ark.—The Stories Denounced.

NEW ORLEANS, Feb. 18.—At 11 o'clock last night fire broke out in the dry goods store of A. Schwartz & Sons, corner of Canal and Bourbon streets, and in less than ten minutes the place was ablaze from ground to roof.

The skylight gave way and the flames shot up more than a hundred feet above the walls and the heat was so great that the firemen could not go near the burning building. In an hour the place was completely destroyed and the walls fell in.

The fire then spread to Philip Werlin's music store east, to Cluverius' drug store west, and extending on Canal street consumed Runkle's dry goods and notions, John McCloskey, confectionery; Ruhn, gloves and fancy goods; Nickel Plate shoe store.

Down Bourbon street the flames went destroying the following stores: Kraus Bros., fancy goods and notions; Hoffman's worsted store and fancy goods; Brill's saloon; Wenger's beer saloon and Holmes' Bourbon street entrance.

Losses over \$2,000,000.

A REPORTED FUGITIVE FOUND.

HOT SPRINGS, Ark., Feb. 18.—James B. Simpson, of Dallas, Tex., whose name has been the central point of a recent financial sensation there, is in this city. When seen to-day he pronounced the story of his crookedness false. He denied all knowledge of reported indictments against him and said he knew nothing of the reports of his flight with \$300,000 of other people's money. Continuing he said: "What you have told me is the first I have heard of any such report, I have been here some time for my health, but having heard that my business affairs need attention I will leave this afternoon for Dallas."

Asked what gave rise to the recent stories Mr. Simpson said he had been engaged in many extensive enterprises. The stringency of the money market brought on a crisis and attachments were run by creditors for large amounts. "Had I been given more time," he said, "I could have met all demands."

"There is no truth in the published report that you are guilty of fraud?"

"None whatever. As evidence of this I will return to Dallas this evening and meet all charges against me. It is but a business crash brought on by creditors; jumping on me without giving me a chance to meet obligations. I think I will be able to arrange matters satisfactorily and without any difficulty on my return to Dallas."

KANSAS CITY, Mo., Feb. 18.—Chief Speers received a telegram from Sheriff Lewis, of Dallas, Tex., asking him to apprehend Col. J. B. Simpson, of that city, who was supposed to be in Kansas City.

RETURNED IN CHAINS.

Meddeth, the Glendale Robber, Taken Back to St. Louis—His Wife Attempts Suicide.

ST. LOUIS, Feb. 18.—The Four Courts was the scene of greater excitement yesterday and last night than at any time since the Maxwell trial. Marion Hedspeith, the famous outlaw, was brought in loaded with chains, and dragging his weary feet along with painful effort. He wore what are technically known as "Oregon boots"—inquisitorial contrivances which render rapid walking or escape impossible. Adelbert Slye and Mrs. Maggie Hedspeith also came in for a share of public curiosity. They were taken to Clayton in the morning and placed on trial in the county court. Slye's plea was "guilty." Sentence was deferred by Judge Edwards. It is believed that Slye will turn state's evidence. Mrs. Hedspeith excited the sympathy of the crowd when the court continued her case owing to her ill health, fixed her bond at \$1,000 and finally released her, with her attorneys as sureties; the poor woman was the recipient of an ovation from the audience in the court room, and a number of ladies, representing the first families of the county, enthusiastically embraced and kissed her.

The most important incident in a day full of criminal history was the attempted suicide of Mrs. Hedspeith. The general public knew nothing of the terrible scenes enacted in the gloomy, forbidding cell of the prisoner during the early hours of the day. In the course of the night Mrs. Hedspeith's cell-mate, Laura Maddox, who was arrested for shop-lifting, was awakened by loud cries and heart-breaking moans. She found Mrs. Hedspeith hanging by the neck from an iron bar and reached her just in time to save her life. Mrs. Hedspeith was half-crazed with grief at the time and later on regretted making the attempt to take her own life.

Nebraska G. A. B. Encampment.

COLUMBUS, Neb., Feb. 18.—The Grand Army of the Republic and Woman's Relief Corps encampments of Nebraska met in this city to-day. Especial interest is felt in the encampment by reason of the talk about changing the place of holding the reunion from Grand Island to some other town, and also because of the unusual number of candidates for state commander.

SARAH ALTHEA HILL-TERRY.

Attacked By a Mania of a Violent Type She Strays Away.

SAN FRANCISCO, Feb. 17.—Sarah Althea Hill-Terry, Sunday, while insane, wandered away from the home of R. E. E. Culbreth, where she was stopping.



SARAH ALTHEA. woman who was Mrs. Terry's nurse several years ago, and who has always been her firm friend.

Mrs. Terry's mania is of a violent type, with occasional intervals of lucidity. At night her madness is the worst and there is a tendency toward homicidal mania. A peculiar feature of the case is that she is desperately in love with R. Porter Ashe, the wealthy turfman, and constantly begs her attendants and the spirits to send him to her. The last defeat which Mrs. Terry sustained in the courts was recently, when she failed to recover the insurance on Terry's life, it being held that he died while violating the law.

Some months ago Mrs. Terry reported to the police that \$7,000 worth of silks and laces had been stolen from her trunk. It was found that she never had any such goods.

Unless her brother, Morgan Hill, intervenes she will be sent to an asylum in a few days. No intervention is probable, as she was disowned by all her relatives long ago, and, besides, her mania is of too violent a type for her to be at large. Once handsome, in a dashing, brilliant way, Mrs. Terry is now a wreck in body as well as mind, and bears on her face lines that tell of fierce passions, a life of storm and violence, and of bitter defeat.

AN APPROPRIATION WANTED.

The President Calls the Attention of Congress to the Mine Inspectors.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 17.—The following is the text of a message transmitted to congress by the president.

"There was passed by the last congress an act for the protection of lives of miners in the territories, which was approved by me on March 3, 1891.

"That no appropriation was made to enable me to carry the act into effect resulted, I suppose, from the fact that it was passed so late in the session. This law recognizes the necessity of a responsible public inspection and supervision of the business of mining in the interest of the miners and is in line with the legislation of most of the states. The work of the miners has its unavoidable incidents of discomfort and danger, and these should not be increased by the neglect of owners to provide every practical safety appliance. Economy involving a sacrifice of human life is intolerable.

"I transmit herewith a memorial from several hundred miners working in the coal mines of the Indian territory asking for an appropriation providing for an inspector. The recent frightful disaster at Krebs, in that territory, in which sixty-seven miners met a horrible death, gives urgency to this appeal, and I recommend that a special appropriation be at once made for the salaries and necessary expenses of the inspectors provided for in that law."

A PROMINENT TEXAS MAN

Disappears From Dallas and is Anxiously Sought For.

DALLAS, Tex., Feb. 17.—Where is J. B. Simpson? This is the question that everyone is asking at present. Col. J. B. Simpson, well-known throughout the south, and Texas especially, who has been at the head of a dozen business firms in Dallas, is absent, and numbers of creditors and people who have been duped are looking for him. The grand jury, it is reported, have found several indictments against him, and the air is filled with rumors of crooked transactions. A rumor was circulated that he had committed suicide at Hot Springs, Ark., where he had gone for his health, but your correspondent learned from one of the largest creditors that Simpson was on the ocean en route either to Europe or South America. A year ago prudent business men predicted that Simpson was going too fast and would come to an abrupt end. His career has been so glittering and his crash so sudden and so complete that his sudden flight is regarded as a mystery, the solution of which is about to implicate him to such an extent as to exile him from this country.

It is estimated that he got away with at least \$300,000 in cool cash.

Ex-Gov. Thayer in Texas.

GALVESTON, Tex., Feb. 17.—A large party of prominent citizens of Nebraska and Kansas, headed by Gov. Thayer, arrived here yesterday morning and spent the day in examining the deep-water harbor work. At night the party was entertained by the chamber of commerce. Gov. Thayer made an extended speech upon the importance of deep-water ports on the Gulf of Mexico and the benefit thereof to the people of the west. Addresses were also made by Gen. Rice, of Fort Scott, Kan., and by several Nebraska members of the party. The visitors were entertained to-day by the Cotton Exchange.

CONGRESS.

The Week's Proceedings Condensed For Convenience of the Reader.

THE senate on the 10th debated the resolution to pay West Virginia her proportion of the direct tax and the matter went over. The printing bill was then discussed at some length and laid over. The oath of office was administered to Mr. Wilson, of Maryland, and after an executive session the senate adjourned. After the usual routine proceedings in the house the committee on coinage reported the Bland free coinage bill and it was placed on the calendar. A resolution was passed for an investigation of the pension bureau, as to whether the office had been used for political purposes and whether clerks had taken advantage of their position to make profits, etc. The military academy bill was then considered in committee of the whole until the hour for adjournment.

In the senate on the 11th a motion to adjourn until Monday was earnestly opposed by Mr. Padlock on the ground that the printing bill had been dragging along for weeks and was still dragging and he wished to get it out of the way so that other more important matters could be reached. The motion, however, was agreed to. Several bills were assigned to positions on the calendar and the printing bill further considered, but went over without final action. Mr. Gibson introduced a bill to improve the navigation of the Mississippi, which was referred. It appropriates \$16,000,000, of which not more than \$3,333,000 shall be used in one year. Mr. Call offered a resolution for an investigation as to the alleged reports of railway and other corporations to control the election of senators in the Florida legislature. Mr. George offered a resolution instructing the committee on finance to report a bill requiring the issuing and keeping in circulation of legal tender notes to the amount of \$10 per capita of the population of the United States, and the increase of such issue every year so as to keep pace with the yearly increase of the population. After considering the printing bill at some length the senate adjourned until Monday. When the house met Mr. Dickinson (Ky.) reported a resolution for the appointment of W. F. Halleck as assistant doorkeeper which brought out a characteristic speech from Mr. Simpson (Kan.) that had the effect of overwhelmingly defeating it. Mr. Scott (Ill.) introduced a resolution instructing the ways and means committee to report a bill repealing the bounty on sugar. The military academy appropriation bill was taken up in committee of the whole and consumed the remainder of the day.

The senate was not in session on the 12th. The house finally disposed of the military academy bill in committee of the whole and it was passed. Amendments were made which cut down the total appropriation \$15,000 from the original bill. The private calendar was then taken up in committee of the whole. The bill for the relief of the heirs of Gen. John A. Quitman was finally favorably reported and passed. The bill for the relief of Postmaster Jones, of Indianapolis, was debated and favorably reported. After fixing days for delivering eulogies upon deceased members the house adjourned.

When the house met on the 13th the speaker announced as the committee to investigate the pension office Messrs. Wheeler (Mich.) Little (N. Y.) Duncan (O.) Lind (Minn.) Brosius (Pa.). On motion of Mr. Hoar (Mass.) the resolution was taken up directing the committee on manufactures to investigate the so-called sweating system of tenement labor. An amendment was adopted directing the committee to inquire how much increase the McKinley bill had caused in the wages of the workmen employed in the industries protected and the result of the bill for the better control of and to promote the safety of national banks was considered at some length and passed. The Indian appropriation bill was reported and the bill amending the internal revenue laws by abolishing the minimum punishment passed and the house adjourned.

In the senate on the 15th a bill appropriating \$15,000,000 for the improvement of the Mississippi river was reported and placed on the calendar. A concurrent resolution for a committee to investigate the landing at New York of Russian immigrants infected with typhus fever was passed. Mr. Manderson reported adversely four bills for the increase of the infantry and artillery branches of the service with a substitute. The printing bill was then further considered and finally passed. In the house Mr. Hatch (Mo.) moved to suspend the rules and adopt the resolution requesting the committee on agriculture to report the effect upon agriculture of the present tariff laws. A lively debate followed, participated in by Messrs. Funtun (Kan.), Doliver and Butler (Ia.), Livingston (Ga.), Simpson (Kan.), Hatch (Mo.) and others. The resolution was adopted without division. A bill passed to establish lineal promotion in the army. An attempt was made to call up and pass the bill to extend the laws of Missouri relative to mines and mining over the Indian territory, but no quorum was secured and the house adjourned.

When the senate met on the 16th the credentials of Senator Sherman for his new term (the sixth) were presented and filed. Mr. Vance reported adversely the bill to provide an income tax to pay pensions. The urgency deficiency bill was then taken up and after some debate passed. The bills were then passed appropriating \$60,000 for constructing a military store house at Omaha, and \$500,000 for a public building at Salt Lake City. Pending consideration of the Idaho contested case the senate went into executive session and soon adjourned. In the house Mr. Brown (Ind.) submitted a report on the Craig-Stewart election case from Pennsylvania. The committee reported in favor of the contestant. After filibustering for five hours by the opponents of free coinage in order to side-track the free coinage bill, the house finally reached a vote on the senate resolution to furnish free transportation to a cargo of relief goods to Russian sufferers, defeated it and adjourned.

STORM IN ENGLAND.

The United Kingdom Treated to a Blizzard—Commerce and Travel Practically Stopped.

LONDON, Feb. 17.—A heavy snow-storm raged in England and Wales yesterday. The storm developed into a gale at night, threatening to cause disasters on the coast. The storm continues to-day. There has been a heavy fall of snow in London. Last night the weather was very cold and it so continues to-day. The snow has been frozen into a compact mass and traffic is thereby greatly impeded.

In the English channel a gale is blowing with great violence. A large number of vessels, fearing that they might not be able to withstand the fury of the storm, or that they might lose their bearings and go ashore in the blinding snowstorm, made for the mouth of the Thames for shelter. Once there, sails were furled and anchors dropped and they are riding on long cables, waiting for the gale to blow itself out. The mail service between England and the continent is greatly delayed by the storm. The air is so thick with snow that it is scarcely possible to see a boat's length away, and a tremendous sea is sweeping up the channel. The captains of the packets will not venture out until the storm abates.

BATTLING WITH INDIANS.

Cowboys and Renegade Indians Reported to Be Fighting in New Mexico.

ALBUQUERQUE, N. M. Feb. 16.—A hot fight is raging between cowboys and renegade Navajo Indians near Coolidge station, on the Atlantic & Pacific railroad, and dispatches from there say that the Indians have been noticed carrying three of their dead from the field of battle. The fighting is said to be most desperate, and the cowboys, who are greatly outnumbered, are contesting every inch of ground.

The fight is in progress near Coddington's ranch, which is not a great distance from Coolidge. Both sides are in the timber, shooting at each other from behind trees.

J. M. Dennis, a sawmill man at Coolidge, who is here, received last night a dispatch from his manager, A. E. Batchelder, that Navajo Indians were congregating in great squads of from twenty-five to fifty at the small towns on the Atlantic & Pacific with the intention of cleaning out the cowboys along the road.

At Chaves station seventy-five Indians are holding a pow-wow. They have on their war paint and are heavily armed. The people are in great excitement. Two women have their trunks packed ready to leave, while the cowboys are taking all the arms they can get and propose to stand their ground.

Mrs. C. Jenkins, wife of the manager of an eating house at Coolidge, with her two children, was the first to reach the city, and she says that when she left the Indians and cowboys were massing their forces for an engagement and that the whole population of Coolidge and vicinity was up in arms and ready for the conflict. Yesterday a number of cowboys from several of the ranges assembled at Coolidge and defied the Indians then in town to begin carrying into execution their threats. The Indians left on horseback and went in the direction of Coddington's ranch. An hour later a runner came into Coolidge at break-neck speed and reported that an engagement was then in progress at the ranch between the Indians and cowboys there and that if the latter were not soon reinforced the Indians would annihilate them. Those in Coolidge then left to join their associates, but the actual result of the fight has not been received.

SPREADING THE DISEASE.

Nine Diseased Italians Discovered in Chicago That Had Been Landed From an Infected Vessel in New York.

CHICAGO, Feb. 16.—A veritable pest house was discovered Sunday night by Officers Winacold and McGuire, of the Morrison street station, who succeeded in running down seven of the nine Italians who arrived on the typhus fever infected steamer, Misallia, from Palermo, reaching New York January 30.

The unfortunate Italians were discovered in a crowded tenement house at Eighty-first and Lyons streets, close beside the Western Indiana railroad tracks, and only a stone's throw from the thickly settled district around the Webster and Abbott carriage factories, in Auburn park.

At this point is a macaroni factory, which has been a bone of legal and social contention for a number of years. Efforts looking to its removal have been fruitless, however, and the factory remains a harboring place for hundreds of Italians who yearly arrive and star there until they find employment elsewhere.

Around the place are a number of cottages, which have been erected since public opinion forced the proprietors to cease using the factory as a lodging house at night. It was in one of these cottages, crowded into a single room, that the officers yesterday found Dominico Gabamori, his wife and five children all infected with disease and spreading the contagion about them. None appeared to be seriously ill and the officers allowed them to remain until the health department can be notified this morning.

The other passengers on the infested steamer are known to be in Chicago and are supposed to have located on Milwaukee avenue, though no trace of them can be found.

DYING TOGETHER.

A Young Farmer and His Wife Found With Their Throats Cut.

GALLATIN, Tenn., Feb. 16.—Near Portland, a small town near the Kentucky line, Elvis Pardue, a well known young farmer, and his wife were found in their home this morning dead on the floor of their bed chamber with their throats cut from ear to ear.

The circumstances are such as to create the belief that the deaths were the result of deliberately planned suicide, though the reports that have reached this place are rather meager and unsatisfactory as to particulars. Both bodies were lying on pillows on the floor, and near Mrs. Pardue was a bloody razor.

The fact that the razor lay nearest Mrs. Pardue has led to the conjecture that she was the last to use the instrument of death. In fact this theory is supported by a note which is said to have been found in the room written in Mrs. Pardue's hand and signed by her, in which it was stated that she and her husband had no friends, and as he had concluded to commit suicide she would take her own life rather than live without him.

The couple had been married only a year. They appeared to live happily and no cause can be divined for the melancholia that led them to so desperate a determination.

A MANIAC'S WORK.

The Mississippi Insane Asylum Burned By an Inmate, Who Was the Only Victim of the Deed—Narrow Escape of Other Inmates.

JACKSON, Miss., Feb. 17.—The four-story main building of the state insane asylum was set on fire about 5 o'clock yesterday morning by J. D. Brown, an inmate who had recently escaped and only returned Monday, when he stated to his attendants that it would be all the worse for him and them if he was again confined. His threat was soon put into execution, and he himself was unable to escape and was burned to death.

There were 600 inmates, most of whom were asleep, but through the almost superhuman exertions of the superintendent, Dr. Mitchell, and his subordinates all were safely transferred to the wings. When the last one was safe Dr. Mitchell, who was just up from a sick bed, staggered and fell unconscious and was conveyed to his residence. Assistant Noland Stewart also succumbed.

Firemen Oden Neal held his post with a hose until his shoes and clothing took fire, when he escaped through a window and took refuge in a pond.

The building was of brick, with 500 feet frontage extending from east to west. It is situated about two miles from the city proper, and the flames had gained fearful headway before the fire department arrived. Nevertheless much of the loss could have been prevented had not the pressure from the waterworks been too light. The building was about two-thirds destroyed, entailing a loss to the state of probably \$200,000, on which there was no insurance.

The legislature yesterday afternoon appropriated \$25,000 to meet immediate demands. The East Mississippi insane asylum at Meriden can accommodate some seventy-five inmates, and seventy-five of the more violent ones have been temporarily transferred to the penitentiary, which is almost empty, the convicts being leased.

A FULL-FLEDGED INDIAN STATE.

Provisions of a Bill Introduced By Representative Peel, of Arkansas.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 17.—Representative Peel, of Arkansas, has introduced a bill which provides, should the Indians so decide, a plan for the construction of a full fledged Indian state, with representatives and senators in Washington and all the rights and privileges of any other state. Mr. Peel has given the question of the construction of a purely Indian state careful study and is satisfied that it would meet the wishes of a majority of the Indians themselves. The idea is well received here and the bill is in the hands of the committee on territories.

Representative Washington, of Tennessee, has introduced a bill which provides that all Indians, no matter of what tribe, who are half white or more and can read and write English, or such full bloods as can read and write and have had a full course at one of the Indian schools can demand and receive his share in severalty of all tribal real and personal property. The effect of this bill is such that the head of a family represents for all. If he comes within the description of this bill he can insist upon receiving in severalty to himself, his own and the share of every member of his family. This would be a good thing for a half blood Osage, the members of which tribes have 1,500,000 acres of land and \$9,000,000 in the United States treasury. The head of a family of five who took the family share in severalty would get about 4,500 acres of land, worth from \$2 to \$10 an acre, and \$28,125.

Representative Washington states the object of the proposed law is to offer an inducement to Indians to get an education and seek the ways of civilization.

LEPERS IN CANADA.

Increased Numbers On the Pacific Coast—Segregation Advocated.

OTTAWA, Ont., Feb. 17.—In view of the increased numbers of lepers on the Pacific coast in Canada, parliament will be asked to increase the annual appropriation for the care of lepers. Dr. Smith, in care of the lazaretto in New Brunswick, says that one year ago there were twenty-two lepers, eleven males and eleven females. During the year six new cases were admitted, and two died. Dr. Smith reports that no lepers have been admitted to the hospital for several years past from Tracadie, so long its hiding place. The newcomers were gathered in from outlying districts to which relatives of leprosy persons in Tracadie had removed years ago.

Dr. Smith says: "I am constantly on the watch and have difficulty in finding some of the cases because they are hidden by their families and friends. By stamping out each new focus of leprosy I feel quite confident that New Brunswick will soon be clear of the disease. To segregation I shall attribute the happy change. Segregation has already cleared leprosy forever from Tracadie."

Wales May Visit America.

ALBANY, N. Y., Feb. 17.—The Albany Evening Journal publishes the following astonishing announcement:

A private cablegram received in Albany to-day says the Prince of Wales and suite of twenty-five will pass through here May 27 on the way to Niagara Falls. Two floors at the Clifton have been engaged. The destination of the party is Ottawa. What has occasioned this visit of the prince is not known. Many will remember the first visit of the prince in 1899 and procession in his honor, in which the brilliant and eccentric Nickay DeForest took so prominent a part.